

# The Morning Astorian

ESTABLISHED 1873

PUBLISHED BY

ASTORIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

J. H. CARTER, GENERAL MANAGER.

## RATES.

By mail, per year ..... \$6 00  
 By mail, per month..... 50  
 By carriers, per month..... 60

## THE SEMI-WEEKLY ASTORIAN.

By mail, per year, in advance ..... \$1 00



## DECLINE OF POPULISM.

Time was that the populist party was the object of lively interest to politicians, says the Call. It grew out of the Farmers' Alliance, organized by that remarkable man Polk, of North Carolina. He made every member take an oath to hear speeches and read papers only of their side. Though this seems preposterous now, it succeeded in establishing that class feeling which Mr. Bryan used adroitly in his two campaigns. The populist party continued the exclusive class policy instituted by Polk, and came to embody all of the political fanaticism of the country. Its Ocala and Omaha platforms were the study of economists and publicists, for they mapped out what would have been an entirely novel system of government.

The populists absorbed the greenback party, and assimilated a considerable number of socialists. Of course such accessions brought in government ownership and direct legislation, and the greenbackers their airy fairy theories of money. Any man who had a half-baked idea that did not deserve baking at all found a place for it in the populist party. The queer combination was soon increased by the accession of demagogues from both parties. It is conceivable that "Whirlwind Davis" of Texas could honestly believe that a proper financial system required that every man's note of hand be made a legal tender, and that the volume of that kind of currency should be limited only by the capacity of men to emit notes of hand, but it is not conceivable that Mr. Bryan and Senator Patterson of Colorado believed that though they advocated it.

The party was propagated and grew in some directions for various reasons. Five years' drought in Nebraska and Kansas made most of the people poor, and poverty is a condition in which vagaries flourish. Senator Ingalls said that the people of Kansas hated Pullman cars because they were an expression of luxury in which only a few could indulge. Wherever drought laid its dry hand or hard times pinched there populism flourished as a protest against conditions that the people were taught could be exorcised by artifice properly directed in politics.

In the south the rise of populism was due to another cause entirely. The race issue kept men from following their convictions into the republican party, while the political tyranny of the democratic organization roused a genuine American protest against its intolerable exactions, of which populism was the expression. Isham G. Harris in Tennessee, Morgan in Alabama, Butler and Wade Hampton in South Carolina, had held the reins so tight that no ambitions were permitted in politics except by their consent. The rise of Tillman in South Carolina was on the lines of populism, and his declaration that he would "give the one gallus men a chance" appealed to the same sentiment that made Tom Watson possible in Georgia.

So it came to be the opinion of even wise men that populism had the elements of permanency and must be reckoned with. While nothing is more sure than that the party was the abnormal product of ephemeral conditions, and was bound to evaporate with its unsubstantial cause, there is no doubt that its decay was hastened by the fusions into which it was wooed by Mr. Bryan. When it was sought and besought by the democracy the upstart party assumed airs, and finding it could dictate proceeded to do so. In this state it dictated to the democracy the nomination of Judge Maguire for governor, and that of Marion Cannon for congress, and success in issuing commands here and elsewhere made it arrogant and puffed up with the pride that goeth before a fall.

Mr. Bryan was not benefited by fusion. The populists that were sent to congress were amusing cranks, with no capacity for the hard work that counts in that body. They were the sort of men who whistle sticks and talk and chew tobacco and spit and spit, and have but one opinion in economics, which is to the effect that any man who has gathered more gear than they stole it from the people. Wherever the party got power it showed a vast incapacity for its responsibilities. Its destructive ideas were definite. It hated all existing

institutions. But when it removed them what it proposed to substitute was a structure that had existed only in a hashish dream. It is no wonder, then, that the national convention of the party, just held in Springfield, Ill., had only 200 delegates, representing a minority of the states, and seemed to have met only to sing the swan song of a party that once filled a vast space in the political horizon. What is left of it is mostly in the south, where it merely gives opportunity to fight the regnant and reckless democracy. If it ever revive the germ will spread from that section.

## THE MILK IN THE COCOANUT.

It is hard to get ahead of the Jap, whether the field be war or repartee, says the Saturday Evening Post. Here are two instances:

Before the present conflict in the east began, a Briton and a Jap, both soldiers, were guests of honor at the leading club of a southern city—the Briton a six-foot Apollo as buoyant as a boy, the Jap small, smiling and quick. The Briton, of course, patronized the Jap; it seemed inevitable; and as the conversation touched upon the impending impact of Russia and Japan, the Briton could not help assuring the little yellow man that he had a powerful protector in John Bull.

"You've got your good points," he said; "and if we should go into business together we could whip the Eastern Hemisphere. It's a great partnership."

"Ah, I see, yes," replied the Jap, who is now fighting in the Second corps. "You furnish the strong arm, the handsome presence, the big voice, and we—the brains."

Since the war began a distinguished Japanese statesman was entertained at a dinner in Washington. The table talk was free and friendly.

"I believe you give up full credit for sending Commodore Perry over to wake you up?" said a member of congress.

"Very full credit," he answered, "very full credit; but we sometimes fear that the Americans do not adequately appreciate how much they found there ready to be waked up."

But Americans are seeing it more clearly every day. There had been centuries of organization, of industry, of plain living, of devotion, of patriotism—and in the wonderful half-century have come skill, adaptability, education and a marvelous sense of selection; and thus we have the most amazing instance of national development in history.

A nation is the individual in the aggregate. The waking-up process, with the man as well as with the population, depends for results on what is found there to wake up. Many faithful parents are spending ten thousand dollars on education in the hope of waking up twenty thousand dollars' worth of force in a thousand-dollar boy.

Every day we hear it said that money is the greatest thing in the world. Money? Why, it is only a servant of brains—and a very menial servant at that.

Among the little known but keenly contested honors is that of being the champion bootblack of London. Since the title was created two years ago it has been held by W. Coutts, but recently at the annual competition at the headquarters of the Central Shoeblack Society, in Great Saffron hall, the honor was won by C. Smith, who for a year will have the right to wear a gold medal and bar. At a given signal the six competitors attacked the boots of six members of the committee, and the rapidity with which the transformation from dirty to clean was effected was marvelous. Lord Kinnaid, who was present, distributed the prizes won.

Congressmen and Senators from all over the United States will watch closely the election returns from the Seventh Kansas district this fall. It will be a test case as to what government garden seeds will do for a man. Besides his regular apportionment of 12,000 packages, Congressman Murdock has talked other congressmen out of 10,000 packages. Senator Long and Congressman-at-Large Scott have also distributed part of their apportionment in the district. Each one of these packages contains five smaller packages.

One of the most remarkable railroads in the world is the Oroya, in Peru, which runs from Callao to the gold fields of Cerro de Pasco. Commencing in Callao, it ascends the narrow valley of the Rimac, rising nearly 5,000 feet in the first 56 miles. Thence it goes through the intricate gorges of the Sierras till it tunnels the Andes at an altitude of 15,645 feet, the highest point in the world where a piston rod is moved by steam. The wonder is doubled on remembering that this elevation is reached in 78 miles.

John Alexander Dowie is home again and a scoffing world jeers no more at his pious pretensions. His progress was anything but royal, but in the record of it he has seen fit to place San Francisco upon his bad books. This is clearly one of the best recommendations that San Francisco has received in some time. Dowie should congratulate himself that he has been of use to some one.

## BAD BREATH

"For months I had great trouble with my stomach and used all kinds of medicines. My tongue has been actually as green as grass, my breath having a bad odor. Two weeks ago a friend recommended Cascarets and after using them I can willingly and cheerfully say that they have entirely cured me. Therefore let you know that I shall recommend them to any one suffering from such troubles."—Chas. H. Halpin, 108 Irvington St., New York, N.Y.



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## ENERGY IS NOT SAVED.

Women Should Spare Themselves, Especially Hard-Worked Mothers.

"I hold," said the head of a household recently to me, "that it is the duty of every woman, especially a mother, to spare herself as much as she possibly can. But when you come to look into the matter, you will half believe that they are bent on killing themselves. For instance, look at the woman who does the washing and ironing of her family. Ask her why she does not buy one of the labor-saving washing machines, and she will reply that she cannot afford it. But if you go into her parlor you will find a piano, or, if not that, then pieces of expensive furniture that could easily have been done without, or their places filled with simpler articles.

"On ironing day you will see her bending over the board in a hot kitchen, while the diningroom is shut up. Ask her why she does not do her ironing there and she will answer that she wants to save the carpet, or keep the apartment cool. And the number of unnecessary articles that you will behold when her ironing is finished! Why, since she must do the work, will she not dress her children plainly, and thereby spare herself long hours in pressing out tucks and ruffles which at the end of a day's wear are again fit for the washtub? And all the necessary articles do not require to be ironed, when there is only one pair of hands to do the work and of the house. We see the same foolish expenditure of strength in cooking. The average mother spends the best part of her day in the kitchen, in work that is not only unnecessary, but also unhygienic. If we ate less, and that little were scientifically prepared, not only would the mother husband her energy, but the family would possess better health."—Beatrice Bancroft, in July Men and Women.

## Timely Topics.

A skunk broke up a Christian Science meeting in Georgia. The leader was unable to convince his followers that they only imagined they smelt something.

Many a man who inquires after your health doesn't care a rap whether it is good, bad, or indifferent.

The Russians are meat eaters; the Japanese are rice eaters; here is an object lesson to go with the upward trend of meat prices.

When a girl begins to criticize a young man's neckties he should prepare for the leap.

The election will come 26 weeks after the assembling of the Chicago convention. How many of us need all that time to decide how we will vote?

You can afford to believe that the office seeks the man if you don't want the office.

The only man who is able to defy the republican party with any prospect of success is Joseph G. Cannon. As a signal that the campaign is now open, the old reliable democratic calamity will begin to be heard in the land.

A man who expects nothing but advice from his relatives is seldom disappointed.

Graduates from President Roosevelt's cabinet never have any difficulty in finding congenial and lucrative employment.

Laugh and the world laughs with you—unless you laugh at your own jokes.

## Brief Campaign This Year.

No necessity exists, therefore, for such a campaign of education as was required eight or four years ago. The main task is organization, and that can well be accomplished in two months. Under the circumstances the republican leaders are wise in postponing the commencement of the campaign. September will have arrived before the political battle will have begun. The business world should be thankful that it is so. A brief campaign upon lines predicated little or no disturbance of business will relieve the quadriennial battle of ballots of much of its terrors.—Chicago Journal.

## Clothes For Active Men

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